GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1516
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2012
ADDITION OF TIME TO INDIAN STANDARD TIME
Patil Shri Sanjay Dina

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Advanced Studies has proposed for adding time to Indian Standard Time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that such a move will save energy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and response of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINSITRY OF PLANNING; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) & (b): No, Madam. The National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru had not proposed adding time to Indian Standard Time (IST). However, scientists of National Institute of Advanced Studies had executed an individual research project sponsored by Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Ministry of Power. The findings of the study conducted were published in the Journal "Current Science" advocating for advancing the Indian Standard Time by half an hour by shifting the IST longitude from 82.5oE to 90oE. However, the shifting of the time longitude need to follow the International Conventions and cannot be implemented in isolation by countries.

(c) & (d): The shifting of time by half an hour will have some benefits in the saving of energy. However, this advancing time by shifting the longitude will be in contravention to the International Convention on Standards. In the year 2002, the Department of Science and Technology had constituted a high level Committee to explore the feasibility of having two separate time zones given the longitudinal difference between the extreme regions of the country. The Committee in its recommendation observed that having separate time zones may not provide any mojor advantage to the states but may pose difficulties in view of differential timings to be framed for airlines, railways, communication services etc. They recommended a more effective solution of advancing the work timing in these states which can be implemented through administrative actions. Accordingly, the Government of India had requested the State(s)/UT(s) Governments to introduce Daylight Saving Measures like staggering of working hours depending on the seasons to maximize the energy saving. Several countries use "Daylight Saving Measures" for saving energy without shifting the time longitude.